From: Jeffrey Thorns
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 8:59pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Do not accept the proposal, as is. Doing so would only slap Microsoft on the wrist and encourage them to continue their current practices.

Accepting the proposal would extend Microsoft's monopoly into the Education market. (At least there is some competition from Apple in that market.)

The proposal would immediately put all not-for-profit enterprises at an unrecoverable disadvantage - ie it would punish people who willingly and freely offered their work for free to the world. (I'm thinking of Open Source initiatives.)

As Microsoft has grown larger and bolder, its "innovation" has slowed to a crawl. Allowing the status quo would further discourage them from the innovation that only comes from a free marketplace (ie without monopolies).

Though I use Microsoft products at work every day, our firm is plagued by problems brought about as a result of management thinking that, since Microsoft has the marketplace to itself, they have no choice but to follow. Free competition would open the minds of America's corporate heads, stimulating new businesses, and improving productivity with new and better products.

Please do not allow Microsoft to get away with writing their own
rules, as they have so often in the past, to everyone's detriment.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Thorns